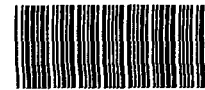




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105



SDMS Doc ID 165613

June 30, 2000

Ms. Amy L. Mills
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Center for Environmental Assessment
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (MC8601-D)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Mills:

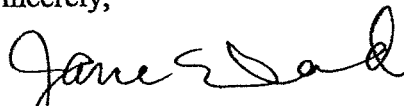
I am writing to follow up on the informal discussions that our Region 9 staff have had with you, requesting that the IRIS external peer review meeting for the perchlorate toxicological assessment be held in California. Although to date 15 states have documented occurrence of perchlorate in groundwater or surface water, the impact of this chemical remains most threatening to water supplies in the Southwest. In Region 9, we now know of 20 separate releases of perchlorate to the environment potentially affecting the water supply of more than 15 million people in California, Arizona and Nevada. It is essential that our Region continue to actively assist and review EPA's efforts in all aspects of perchlorate research and assessment.

Holding the IRIS external peer review meeting in California will allow observers from state agencies such as the California Department of Health Services and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The states of California and Arizona are engaged in revisions of their health-based guidance levels for perchlorate in drinking water. The state of Nevada is overseeing remediation efforts in Henderson, NV to address the major source of perchlorate impacting the Colorado River. Locating the meeting in California will also facilitate attendance of other groups actively following perchlorate developments such as Tribes, water supply agencies, perchlorate manufacturers, perchlorate users, citizen groups and others. We recognize that there is a standard protocol for an IRIS external peer review meeting and our Region can facilitate the implementation of this process if the meeting were to be held in California.

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I encourage you to contact Kevin Mayer and Catherine McCracken of my staff as you begin planning for the IRIS external peer review meeting. They can work with you to find suitable locations in California for the meeting. We look forward to the rapid establishment of final revised human health and ecological toxicity estimates for perchlorate.

Sincerely,



for Kevin A. Takata, Director
Superfund Division

cc: William H. Farland, National Center for Environmental Assessment
Timothy Fields, Jr., Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Jonathan C. Fox, Office of Water
Norine E. Noonan, Office of Research and Development